

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 /076 W  
-----046674 180125Z /63

R 171414Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6796  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 5989

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, KE  
SUBJ: OGINGA ODINGA SHUT OUT OF CALL ON PRESIDENT KENYATTA

REF: NAIROBI 5891

1. SUMMARY: KENYA'S ESTABLISHMENT POLITICAL GROUP, LED BY VICE PRESIDENT MOI AND ATTORNEY GENERAL NJONJO, CONVINCINGLY DEMONSTRATED THEIR GRIP ON POLITICAL LIFE OF COUNTRY BY TURNING CALL SCHEDULED FOR LUO COMMUNITY ON PRESIDENT KENYATTA COMPLETELY TO THEIR ADVANTAGE. OGINGA ODINGA WAS HUMILIATED AND HIS SON-IN-LAW, ONE OF HIS CLOSEST ASSOCIATES, HAS BEEN ARRESTED. END SUMMARY.

2. CALL ON PRESIDENT AT NAKURU TOOK PLACE AS SCHEDULED APRIL 15, BUT HARDLY IN MANNER PRO OGINGA ODINGA ORGANIZERS HAD ENVISAGED. INSTEAD OF CALL BY LUO COMMUNITY  
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REPRESENTATIVES, FORMAT WAS CHANGED IN FINAL FEW DAYS TO PROVIDE FOR CALL BY DELEGATION REPRESENTING NYANZA PROVINCE. NYANZA PROVINCE IS HOME OF VAST MAJORITY OF LUOS. HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO HOME OF KISII TRIBE, WHICH WAS REPRESENTED ON STATE HOUSE PODIUM BY MINISTER OF LABOR, JAMES NYAMWEYA. THIS SERVED TO DILUTE LUO NATURE OF EVENT. MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, SINCE DELEGATION WAS PROVINCIAL RATHER THAN TRIBAL, IT WAS

LED BY NYANZA PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER, ISSYA CHELUGET, A KALENJIN AND POLITICAL CONFIDENT OF VP MOI. INDEED, ONE OF LUO UNION'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES AT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT WAS REPORTEDLY TO ASK THAT CHELUGET, WHOM THEY CONSIDER POLITICAL ENEMY, BE REPLACED. BUT LUO UNION AND OTHER PRO OGINGA ODINGA LUOS NEVER HAD CHANCE TO SPEAK. LUO REPRESENTATIVE ON PODIUM WAS MINISTER FOR INFORMATION ISSAK OMOLO OKERO, WHO IS ANTI OGINGA ODINGA AND CLOSE TO MOI AND NJONJO. SEVERAL LUO UNION LEADERS WERE PRESENT AT STATE HOUSE, BUT THEIR STATUS WAS GIVEN NO RECOGNITION. THEY WERE OBLIGED TO SIT AMONG CROWDS.

3. OGINGA ODINGA AND HIS SENIOR ADVISOR, EX MINISTER FOR INFORMATION ACHIENG ONEKO, DID NOT GAIN ADMISSION TO STATE HOUSE. ONEKO TOLD PRESS IN NAKURU APRIL 15 THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD TO KEEP AWAY FROM STATE HOUSE AND THAT OGINGA ODINGA WAS LYING LOW ELSEWHERE IN NAKURU.

4. ON APRIL 13 OGINGA ODINGA'S SON-IN-LAW, OTIENO AMBALA, WHO HAD BEEN IN NAKURU TO ADVANCE VISIT BY LUO DELEGATION, WAS ORDERED BY POLICE TO RETURN TO NYANZA. ON ARRIVAL THERE HE WAS ARRESTED AND ARRAIGNED BEFORE SENIOR RESIDENT MAGISTRATE ON CHARGES OF CREATING DISTURBANCE TO PEACE BY CALLING PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER CHELUGET "A NOTHING" IN A MARCH 7 MEETING. MAGISTRATE ORDERED THAT AMBALA BE HELD WITHOUT BAIL PENDING HEARING APRIL 20.  
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5. COMMENT: ANY DOUBTS ABOUT PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO REHABILITATING OGINGA ODINGA POLITICALLY HAVE BEEN DISPELLED. BY AUTHORIZING THIS CALL AND THEN SANDBAGGING OGINGA ODINGA, PRESIDENT HAS CLEARLY SHOWN HIS HAND. THE WAY ISSUE PRESENTED ITSELF KENYATTA HAD EITHER TO RECEIVE OR REBUFF THE OGINGA ODINGA GROUP. HE OBVIOUSLY CHOSE THE LATTER.

6. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SPEAK TO ANY OF MAJOR LUOS IN OGINGA ODINGA'S GROUP SINCE APRIL 15 MEETING. ALL OF THEM HAVE RETURNED TO NYANZA PROVINCE PRESUMABLY TO LICK THEIR WOUNDS AND DISCUSS FUTURE STRATEGY. YET, IT MAY BE SURMISED THAT THEIR NORMAL QUOTIENT OF RESENTMENT HAS BEEN INCREASED BY WHAT THEY MUST CERTAINLY REGARD AS BETRAYAL AT TOP LEVEL. PREVIOUSLY, IT WAS EASY TO BLAME PRESIDENT'S ADVISORS, SUCH AS MOI AND NJONJO, FOR THEIR MISFORTUNE, BUT IN THIS CASE FINAL DECISION ON HOW TO HANDLE LUO DELEGATION WAS CLEARLY TAKEN BY PRESIDENT HIMSELF. AMBALA TOLD EMBASSY LAST WEEK THAT PRESIDENT HAD PERSONALLY PROMISED SMALL LUO UNION GROUP WHICH CALLED ON HIM MARCH 3 THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE OGINGA ODINGA (SEE REFTTEL). FURTHERMORE, PRESIDENT'S

NEPHEW, NGENGI MUIGAI, WHO HAD WORKED TO SET UP BOTH MARCH 3 AND APRIL 15 MEETINGS, WAS ON PODIUM AT SATE HOUSE APRIL 15 LENDING LEGITIMACY TO WHAT TOOK PLACE. OGINGA ODINGA LUOS ARE BOUND TO REGARD THIS AS ANOTHER INDICATION OF UNWILLINGNESS OF TOP KIKUYU'S TO STICK POLITICAL NECKS OUT FOR INTERESTS OF ANY TRIBAL GROUP BUT THEIR OWN.

7. FOR THEIR PART, MO-NJONJO GROUP ARE RIDING HIGH. THEY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CUT OFF AT THE PASS WHAT COULD HAVE BECOME MOST SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO THEIR PREDOMINANCE SINCE ABORTED KANU ELECTIONS MORE THAN ONE YEAR AGO. ARREST OF AMBASSA AND CHARGES AGAINST HIM ARE AN INDICATION OF JUST HOW STRONG THEIR GROUP SENSES ITSELF TO BE. CALLING PRONVICIAL COMMISSIONER A "NOTHING" AS AMBALA ALLEGEDLY DID IS HARDLY AN CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFENSE MERITING ARREST, PARTICULARLY MORE THAN A MONTH AFTER THE FACT. TREATMENT OF AMBALA IS ON FACE OF IT AN ADDITIONAL HARD SLAP IN FACE TO OGINGA ODINGA LUOS AND A REMINDER TO ALL POTENTIAL DISSIDENTS OF POWER ESTABLISHMENT POLITICAL GROUP NOW WIELDS.  
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## Message Attributes

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